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The Emancipation of the Mediaeval Towns. By A. GIRY AND A. RÉVILLE. Translated from the *Histoire Générale* by PROFESSOR F. G. BATES AND PAUL E. TITSWORTH, of Alfred University. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1907. Pp. 69. 50 cents.

This modest little volume belongs to the series of monographs entitled "Historical Miscellany," and edited by Professor Earle W. Dow, of Michigan University. It is the translation of an extract from the monumental French work edited by Professors Lavissee and Rambaud. The authors of this little treatise on the towns of the Middle Ages are two of the foremost historians of France.

Owing to the dearth in English of accurate works on this subject the pamphlets should be of value to students of the Middle Ages. The importance of the mediaeval towns can hardly be overemphasized. They were a powerful agency in overthrowing the feudal system. They have been called the cradles of modern liberty. They were centers of industry and commerce, as well as of art and literature.

The problems involved in tracing their genesis and development are so complex, the literature bearing on the subject that has grown up in European countries so vast and much of the source material so inaccessible to Americans, that we must as yet depend largely upon the work of foreign scholars. The translation of this extract is therefore to be welcomed. The only regret one has is that so little space is devoted to the Italian, English, and German towns. However, on the French towns the book is very explicit and gives much valuable information. It will prove of most value to college students but should find a place also in high schools and academies as a reference work and in supplementary reading.

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Outlines of Ancient History. By WILLIAM C. MOREY, PH.D., D.C.L. New York, Cincinnati, and Chicago: American Book Co., 1906. Pp. 550. \$1.50.

This volume has been prepared with reference to the report of the Committee of Seven and is intended for a year's work in ancient history. It combines the essentials of the author's *Outlines of Greek History* and his *Outlines of Roman History*. Beginning with a brief introduction that treats of the general character of ancient history, the author takes up the oriental empires, Greece, Rome, and the early Middle Ages, carrying the account down to the year 800 A. D.

The book is one of the best texts on the subject intended for the use of high schools and academies. The language is clear, careful references for reading are given at the end of each chapter, while the appendix contains a list of the best books on the entire period covered. The type is clear and the paper good, so that the general appearance of the book is attractive. The relief maps are, in general, well selected, but the conspicuous fault of the book is the lack of larger maps, such as a good map of Greece, Italy, Alexander's Empire, the